Youth Migration Summary
Maine State Planning Office; March 2010

There are persistent concerns about the departure of young people from the state. Unfortunately, the best information we currently have is from the 2000 Census. As we await the Census 2010 population count, we can consider what we might see in terms of youth migration. While there is no precise migration measure available by age group, there are a few ways of looking at the data that can give an indication of what has been happening.

The first is simply population change. Between 2000 and 2008, some youth age cohorts have experienced a population decrease, while others have experienced a population increase. The youngest age cohort, children under 5 years of age, experienced slight population growth. The 20-24 age cohort experienced a 12.5% increase in population since 2000, while the 25-29 age cohort has also seen population growth. All of the other youth age cohorts have experienced population decline, generally between 13% and 18%.

Percent change since 2000 census	July 1, 2008
Total Population	**3.3%**
Under 5 years	1.0%
5 to 9 years	-13.1%
10 to 14 years	-15.6%
15 to 19 years	-2.0%
20 to 24 years	12.5%
25 to 29 years	6.3%
30 to 34 years	-14.9%
35 to 39 years	-17.9%

It is important to note that this population change is due to a combination of factors, not just migration. The largest contributing factor is the aging from one cohort to another. There are two examples of this in the table to the left.

First, the youngest Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) were members of the 35-39 cohort in 2000. By 2008, they had aged out of this cohort and the current generation of 35-39 year olds is much smaller. This is a large part of why the 35-39 age cohort lost nearly 18% of its size from 2000 to 2008 – the Baby Boomers who were in this cohort at the start had aged out by the end.

The other example has to do with the children of the Baby Boomers. When the large cohort of Baby Boomers began to have children, a dramatic increase in births was seen. The years of birth for this "echo boom" generation were 1982-1995 – so in 2000, the 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19 cohorts were quite a bit larger than the cohorts before and after. By 2008, the Echo Boomers were 13-26 years old, causing a decline in the 5-9 and 10-14 cohorts and a rise in the 20-24 and 25-29 cohorts. The 15-19 cohort contained Echo Boomers in both 2000 and 2008, so there was little population change in this cohort.

One way to account for the aging into and out of cohorts is to calculate the deviation from the expected population. This method compares one age cohort in a particular year with the population of the one year older age cohort for the following year and assumes that any difference is due to migration. For example, the number of 9-13 year olds in 2007 is expected to be the same as the number of 10-14 year olds in 2008, with any difference between the two populations being caused by in- or out-migration. The table to the right shows deviation from expected population from 2000 to 2001 and from 2007 to 2008. Each time the target age cohort is compared with the one-year younger cohort from the previous year.

Deviation from expected population*		
	2007-2008	2000-2001
5-9	66	733
10-14	-20	576
15-19	-1,977	-2,338
20-24	-1,701	-1,242
25-29	329	940
30-34	567	1,454
35-39	273	1,044

*Expected population calculated as previous age cohort in earlier year: e.g. expected population for 20-24 year olds in 2008 is equal to 2007 population of 19-23 year olds

There are several migration trends that appear from this comparison. First, the earlier years of the decade tended to see larger deviations from the expected population than in the later

years of the decade. This implies that more people were moving during the beginning of the decade than the end. It could be that the housing crisis slowed migration considerably in recent years. Second, the younger and older youth age cohorts have tended to see net in-migration, while the middle cohorts (15-24) have seen net out-migration. This is consistent with the idea that many of the youth in these age cohorts leave the state for college or advanced degree work. In the most recent year, the 10-14 age cohort did not see net in-migration, as it had in each of the previous years, but again, this is likely due to the overall slowing of migration.

Another tool for looking at migration over the past year is the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. It is important to note that these migration figures are based on a sample of the population and are an estimate only – the actual figure could be higher or lower than the figure given. Because the American Community Survey uses a sample of the population, the data will not match that from the Population Estimates Program, and in fact conflicts for some age cohorts. A more accurate snapshot of the population will be available following the upcoming decennial Census 2010.

Estimated Net Domestic Migration, 2007-2008	
Total	1,898
1 to 4 years	344
5 to 17 years	214
18 and 19 years	-194
20 to 24 years	-1,362
25 to 29 years	1,319
30 to 34 years	-470
35 to 39 years	40

There are two tables available from the American Community Survey that provide migration data: one looks at people currently living in Maine and where they were living one year ago (in-migrants) while the other looks at people who were living in Maine one year ago and where they are living now (out-migrants). Net migration equals in-migrants minus out-migrants. The net domestic migration table to the left gives another point of data to consider in conjunction with the data from the Population Estimates Program.